

REMARKS

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below. The amendment to the claims link together the inventions as claimed in claims 1 - 14, and, therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement regarding Groups I and II (claims 1 - 14, and now new claims 21 - 24).

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for forming a sealed joint between two thin walled metallic pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits comprising the steps of:

[holding the thin walled pipe;
cutting the thin walled pipe ends for properly squaring each pipe end;
rounding each squared pipe end with a mandrel for providing uniform pipe ends;
installing a steel coupling proximate to one end of one of the pipes;
aligning] positioning the two pipe ends with an alignment device in an abutted end to end orientation;
applying a sealer tape to the abutted ends of the two pipes; and
clamping [the] a steel coupling over the sealer tape which renders the sealed joint leak proof and provides structural integrity.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits, the system comprising:

[means for holding the thin metallic pipe;
means for cutting the pipe ends for properly squaring the ends;
means for rounding each squared pipe end;
an alignment holder for aligning] means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end orientation with an alignment holder;
a steel coupling;
a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and
means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.

Please add new claims 21, 22, 23 and 24.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
holding the thin walled pipe;
cutting the thin walled pipe ends for properly squaring each pipe end;
rounding each squared pipe end with a mandrel for providing uniform
pipe ends; and

installing the steel coupling proximate to one end of one of the pipes.

22. (New) The system of claim 7 further comprising:
means for holding the thin metallic pipe;
means for cutting the pipe ends for properly squaring the ends; and
means for rounding each squared pipe end.

23. (New) A seal joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid
distribution system manufactured according to the method of claim 1 comprising:
a pair of thin wall metallic pipe ends, each having a squared cut end
and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, said pair of pipe ends positioned in a
parallel and an abutted end to end relationship to each other;
a sealer tape applied around the abutted pipe ends, wherein the sealer
tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap of the first
end around said pipe ends; and
a steel coupling clamped over the sealer tape.

24. (New) A system for forming a sealed joint between two thin
aluminum pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid
conduits and manufactured according to the method of claim 1, said system
comprising:

means for positioning the two pipe ends in an abutted end to end
orientation with an alignment holder;

a steel coupling;

a sealer tape for applying to the abutted ends; and
means for clamping the stainless steel coupling over the sealer tape to
render the sealed joint leak proof and to provide structural integrity.